



United States
Department of
Agriculture

Agricultural
Research
Service

Animal
Improvement
Programs
Laboratory

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September 17, 1997

SUBJECT: Deadlines for Receipt of Data by the Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory
for November 1997 USDA-DHIA Genetic Evaluations

TO: Executive Secretaries, Breed Associations
Managers, Dairy Records Processing Centers
State Extension Dairy Specialists Advising on Dairy Cattle Breeding
and the National Cooperative Dairy Herd Improvement Program
Coordinator of Genetic Programs, National Association of Animal Breeders
Chief Executive Officer, National Dairy Herd Improvement Association

FROM: H.D. Norman, Research Leader, AIPL *H. Duane Norman*

The Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory (AIPL) plans to start data processing for November 1997 USDA-DHIA genetic evaluations on Friday, October 3, 1997. The new schedule allows for a simultaneous release with evaluations from Canada. The following deadline dates apply:

1. **All pedigree data (format 1)** should be in the AIPL office by **10 a.m., Friday, October 3, 1997**. To assist AIPL in processing pedigree data, please complete the form "Dispatch of Data-Recording Media," and pay particular attention to the area reserved for providing highest registration numbers. **Bull-owner name-and-address data (format 2)** should be in the AIPL office by **close of business, Tuesday, October 21, 1997**. As a minimum, please include owner addresses for bulls from 3 to 11 years old.
2. **All complete, in-progress, test-herd, and delete lactation records (format 4) and herd-owner name-and-address records (format 2)** should be available for processing by **10 a.m., Friday, October 3, 1997**. For proper test-herd recognition, AIPL requires that the herd code be formatted as follows. The State code can be any valid numeric State number as defined in reference note 5 for AIPL formats (see format 4T); the county code must be 99, and the herd code must be within the range of 9990 through 9992. If the herd code of test-herd records is not coded in this manner, these records are interpreted and processed as genetic evaluation data, which may cause conflicts with other records on file.
3. Owner-sampler records from herds with certified meters and a calving date after July 1, 1996, are considered for inclusion in evaluations. Format-14 fields for percentage of milk shipped (bytes 150-152) and for percentage of animals completely identified (bytes 144-146) are used as two of the criteria in determining record suitability. The dairy records processing centers should send an **updated format-14 file by 10 a.m., Friday, October 3, 1997**.

The cutoff date for in-progress records must be on or before the cutoff date for complete 305-day records. Otherwise, some records in progress at the complete-record cutoff might be completed prior to processing of the in-progress computer tape. Such records would not be included in November 1997 genetic evaluations because they would not have been sent with either completed or in-progress records.

To ensure that all data reach AIPL without delay after arriving in Beltsville, please use the following mailing addresses:

U.S. Postal Service:

Computer Operations Section
Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory
USDA-ARS, Building 263, BARC-East
10300 Baltimore Avenue
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350

All other carriers:

Computer Operations Section
Animal Improvement Programs Laboratory
USDA-ARS, Building 263, BARC-East
Poultry Road
Beltsville, Maryland 20705-2350

All changes for mailing instructions must reach AIPL by **Tuesday, October 21, 1997.**

The AIPL target date for the mailing of completed lactation records (format 4) to breed associations is **Friday, October 17, 1997.** All genetic evaluation data except for the list of genetic evaluations for bulls in active artificial-insemination (AI) service will be posted at **10 a.m. eastern standard time (EST), Friday, October 31, 1997.** The password to access evaluation files will be available at **7 a.m. (EST), Monday, November 3, 1997.** Questions from the field on specific research results released on Friday, October 31, 1997, for individual animals **will not be answered** before 8 a.m. on the following Thursday. The list of active AI bull evaluations and foreign evaluations will be posted at AIPL's web site by **Friday, November 7, 1997.**

Last-minute update of AI designation: The National Association of Animal Breeders (NAAB) status codes from the last-minute update of the AI status of bulls by the AI organizations are not available at the time of data release. To avoid possible misinterpretation of certain AI codes in the format-380 file, all code **A**, **F**, and **L** bulls are changed to code **I** if the bull has 10 or more evaluated daughters or to code **P** if the bull has fewer than 10 evaluated daughters. Identification of (A)ctive AI, (F)oreign, and (L)imited release bulls, (resulting from the last-minute update) will be made available electronically at uniform resource locator (URL) **<ftp://aipl.arsusda.gov/pub/bulls/aistatus.B97>**, so that those receiving the 380 data can update their files with the new codes. This electronic file will be available at **1 pm (EST), Friday, November 7, 1997.** For each bull with a status change, the file will have breed, registration number, and status code.

Cooperators with AIPL are encouraged to access the AIPL web site at **<http://aipl.arsusda.gov>** for timely information relating to genetic evaluation schedules and other information of interest to the dairy industry. This memorandum will be posted at the AIPL web site by the middle of March, June, September, or December in both HTML and PDF formats. Electronic mail will be used to notify the dairy records processing centers, breed associations, and NAAB of the availability of this memorandum.

Your cooperation in observing the deadlines for sending data to be included in November 1997 USDA-DHIA genetic evaluations and your continued support of the AIPL research program are appreciated greatly.